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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,985	08/21/2003	Philip W. Hammond	COTH-P03-504	1147
7590	04/04/2006		EXAMINER	
Patent Group ROPES & GRAY One International Place Boston, MA 02110			CHUNDURU, SURYAPRABHA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1637	
DATE MAILED: 04/04/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/646,985	HAMMOND ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Suryaprabha Chunduru	1637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 15, 2006 has been entered.

Status of the Application

2. The action is in response to the RCE filed on February 15, 2006. Currently claims 1, 3-11 are pending. Claim 1 is amended. Claim 2 is cancelled. All arguments and amendment have been fully considered and thoroughly reviewed and deemed persuasive in view of the amendment.

Priority

3. This application filed on August 21, 2003 is a CON of US nonprovisional 09/910,518 filed on 7/20/2001 now abandoned, which is a CON of 09/374,962 filed on 8/16/1999, which claims benefit of US provisional 60/096,818 filed on 8/17/1998.

New issues

Objection to the Specification

5. The specification is objected because of the following informalities:

(i) This application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 CFR 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2). However, this application fails to comply the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825.

The instant application recites sequences that are not identified by SEQ ID No. (see at least page 18-19, 21-22) recite a nucleic acid sequence / amino acid sequence with more than 10 nucleotides or 4 amino acids, which is not identified by SEQ ID NO.)

New Grounds of Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1, 3, 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ruffner et al. (USPN. 6,586,180).

Ruffner et al. teach a method of claim 1, for removing the 3'-untranslated region of a population of DNA molecules, wherein each DNA molecule in said population comprises an open reading frame and a 3'untranslated region (see col. 12, line 54-67, col. 13, line 1-17, col. 5, line 34-67, col. 6, line 1-47), said method comprising

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(a) providing a population of DNA molecules, each of said DNA molecules terminating in a 3' overhang upstream of the open reading frame and in a blunt end downstream of the open reading frame, wherein each said DNA molecule is double-stranded (see col. 12, line 54-57, col. 6, line 10-14);

(b) treating sequentially said DNA molecules first with an exonuclease III and then with a single-stranded nuclease under conditions to remove said 3'-untranslated region wherein the sequential treatment of said DNA molecules specifically remove the 3'untranslated region from the end downstream of the open reading frame (see col. 12, line 57-67, col. 13, line 1-5, col. 6, line 14-20, Fig. 2).

With regard to claim 3, Ruffner et al. teach that the nuclease is Mung bean nuclease (see col. 12, line 65-67, col. 13, line 1-2col. 6, line 19).

With regard to claim 6-10, Ruffner et al. teach that said population comprises at least 10 DNA molecules to 10^5 DNA molecules (see col. 2, line 20-30col. 17m line 5-12, col. 18, line 1-5). Accordingly Ruffner et al. anticipates the instant claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 4-5, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruffner et al. (USPN. 6,586,180) in view of Szostak et al. (USPN. 6,214,553, reference taken from the IDS submitted by the Applicants).

Ruffner et al. teach a method for removing the 3'-untranslated region of a population of DNA molecules, wherein each DNA molecule in said population comprises an open reading frame and a 3'untranslated region (see col. 12, line 54-67, col. 13, line 1-17, col. 5, line 34-67, col. 6, line 1-47), said method comprising

(a) providing a population of DNA molecules, each of said DNA molecules terminating in a 3' overhang upstream of the open reading frame and in a blunt end downstream of the open reading frame, wherein each said DNA molecule is double-stranded (see col. 12, line 54-57, col. 6, line 10-14);

(b) treating sequentially said DNA molecules first with an exonuclease III and then with a single-stranded nuclease under conditions to remove said 3'-untranslated region wherein the sequential treatment of said DNA molecules specifically remove the 3'untranslated region from the end downstream of the open reading frame (see col. 12, line 57-67, col. 13, line 1-5, col. 6, line 14-20, Fig. 2).

However, Ruffner et al. did not specifically teach removal of stop codon, cDNA produced by reverse transcription and said population of DNA molecules comprising at least 10^6 DNA molecules.

Szostak et al. teach a method of claim 4, for selection of desired RNA and screening cDNA libraries, wherein Szostak et al. disclose that the method comprises generating a cDNA library, ligating a protein acceptor, and testing the interaction with particular molecules, wherein stop codons and 3'-UTR regions are avoided by removal of stop codons and 3'-UTR from the DNA sequences (see col. 3, line 16-26, col. 41, line 59-67, col. 42, line 1-9).

With regard to claim 5, Szostak et al. also teach that the DNA molecule is a cDNA produced by reverse transcription from an RNA sequence (see col. 4, line 27-31) and

With regard to claims 11, Szostak et al. teach that a population of DNA molecules comprises one or more DNA molecules, that includes more than 10^9 to more than 10^{14} DNA molecules (see col. 39-43, line 63-67, col. 5, line 1-3).

It would have been prima facie obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method for removing 3'-UTR as taught by Ruffner et al. with a step of including removal of stop codons, and an addition of cDNA library comprising more than 10^{14} DNA molecules as taught by Szostak et al. for the purpose of screening cDNA libraries because Szostak et al. explicitly taught that "for screening cDNA libraries the stop codons and 3'-UTR are avoided if desirable (see col. 42, line 3-9). Therefore one skilled in the art would have been motivated to combine the method of removal of 3'-UTR as taught by Ruffner et al. with a step of removal of stop codons and inclusion of cDNA libraries as taught by Szostak et al. because the ordinary artisan would have a reasonable expectation of success that inclusion of

said parameters would result in screening of a large number of cDNAs that would aid in identifying new genes.

Response to arguments:

8. Applicants' arguments with regard to the rejection of claims 1,3 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hotz et al., Applicants' arguments are fully considered and found persuasive in view of the arguments and amendment.

9. With regard to the rejection of claims 1-3 under 102(e) as being anticipated by Treco et al., Applicants' comments are considered and Examiner herein confirm that the rejection was withdrawn in the previous office action.

10. Applicants' arguments with regard to the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hotz et al., Applicants' arguments are fully considered and found persuasive in view of the arguments and amendment.

11. Applicants' arguments with regard to the rejection of claims 4-11 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Hotz et al. in view of Szostak et al., Applicants' arguments and the amendment are fully considered and the rejection is withdrawn herein in view of the arguments and the amendment.

Conclusion

No claims are allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suryaprabha Chunduru whose telephone number is 571-272-0783. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30A.M. - 4.30P.M , Mon - Friday,.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Suryaprabha Chunduru
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1637

Suryaprabha Chunduru
SURYAPRABHA CHUNDURU
PATENT EXAMINER 4/31/06